

**Guidelines on the Agreement on the 9 Points Revised Conditions for
FAS Community Employment (CE)
Ring-fenced Drugs Rehabilitation Places (DRP'S)
2011**

Overview.

The FAS led Working Group to review the delivery procedures for the Ringfenced Drug Rehabilitation Places (DRP's) on FAS Special Community Employment Programmes has completed its work.

The Working Group met 5 times during 2010 to review and agreed the final procedures. During this time, the draft documentation was circulated to FAS Regions for feedback and comment.

The final document outlining the agreed 9 points revised conditions for Community Employment Ringfenced Drugs Rehabilitation Places (DRP'S) has now been agreed and signed-off by the FAS-led Working Group. I enclose a copy of the revised Agreement for immediate implementation.

The agreed procedures also provide a guideline for FAS in supporting and monitoring the implementation of the revised 9 points.

Background and Rationale for the Working Group

The 9 point special conditions for the delivery of the Drugs Rehabilitation Places (DRP's) on CE Special Programmes was originally agreed by FAS following the recommendations of the Bruce Report (2004) and consultations with Community sector representatives.

In early 2009, the Community Sector made representation to the Office for the Minister for Drugs (OMD) for a review of the procedures for allocation and delivery of the original 9 points agreement.

The item became part of the Drugs Advisory Group Work plan and the CE Working Group was established. This Group, representing all key stakeholders was tasked with the objective to review the 9 points in order to ensure consistent and appropriate referral, delivery and implementation of the special conditions for the delivery of the dedicated 1,000 ring-fenced CE Drugs Rehabilitation places.

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for Community Employment (CE)
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1. Entry Requirements

- ✓ The age of entry pre-requisite is reduced to 18

The minimum age for participation on a standard Community Employment (CE) Programme is 25 years of age. This age requirement has been reduced in recognition of the demands for rehabilitation training for those referred in recovery from substance misuse.

2. Referral Procedures

- ✓ The normal Department CE eligibility requirements are waived based on evidence of an appropriate referral following an appropriate assessment of the applicant in the context of the National Rehabilitation Framework protocols.

This National Drug Rehabilitation Implementation Committee (NDRIC) Framework is designed to ensure a continuum of care for people in rehabilitation and will ensure appropriate and consistent referral procedures for all Drug Rehabilitation participants coming on CE, both in relation to the Ring-fenced CE Programmes places and standard CE programmes.

- ✓ Referral documentation should be made available to FÁS if requested.

3. ILP Training and Development

- ✓ The Training and Development budgets are based on the development of the CE Individual Learner Plan (ILP) process.

Every learner on CE has their own Individual Learner Plan (ILP) which identifies their learning goals and charts progress. The ILP is a web-based system which allows learning to be identified, requested, approved, delivered and reported on in real time. This plan is jointly agreed between the Supervisor and learner.

Using the ILP, learners can pace their own learning and record and recognise their own achievements, including accredited learning.

As a step by step record of achievements, the ILP provides an opportunity for personal reflection and positive re-enforcement of their personal journey towards rehabilitation and progression

4. Programme Duration

- ✓ Participants may be eligible for up to 3 years participation on CE
- ✓ In exceptional circumstances and subject to a case manager referral, participants may be eligible for one year additional time on a standard CE Programme. The Department eligibility and age requirements are waived.

5. Programme Participation

- ✓ A qualifying client can re-engage to another Drug Rehabilitation CE project without the 12 month re-qualifying period.

6. Supervisor/Participant Ratio

- ✓ Supervisor to participant ratio is 1:7

7. National Programme approval

- ✓ Some approval procedures are waived

Following FAS approval, applications are brought before the National Monitoring Committee for noting.

8. Accredited Quality Assured Certification (FETAC/HETAC)

- ✓ Access to quality assured recognised certification is recommended but will allow up to 30% non-accredited activities pending periodic review.

The recognition of non- accredited learning is to address the wide range of uncertified personal development and rehabilitation activities undertaken on Special CE Programmes. All activities will continue to be recorded and approved through the ILP system.

9. 25% Worker Support Element

- ✓ A 25% worker element is included in addition to the ring-fenced places to support the delivery of the CE Programme. Support workers must comply with normal CE eligibility conditions.

The FAS CE Application procedures and IT Management System are being revised to record the support workers.

